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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): FAC-  
ULTE POLYTECHNIQUE DE MONS [BE/BE]; Rue  
de Houdain, 9, B-7000 MONS (BE).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): WUILPART, Marc  
[BE/BE]; Route du Lion 131 bte 32, B-1420 BRAINE-  
L'ALLEUD (BE).

(74) Agents: VAN MALDEREN, Joëlle et al.; pronovem - Of-  
fice Van Malderen, Avenue Josse Goffin 158, B-1082 Brux-  
elles (BE).

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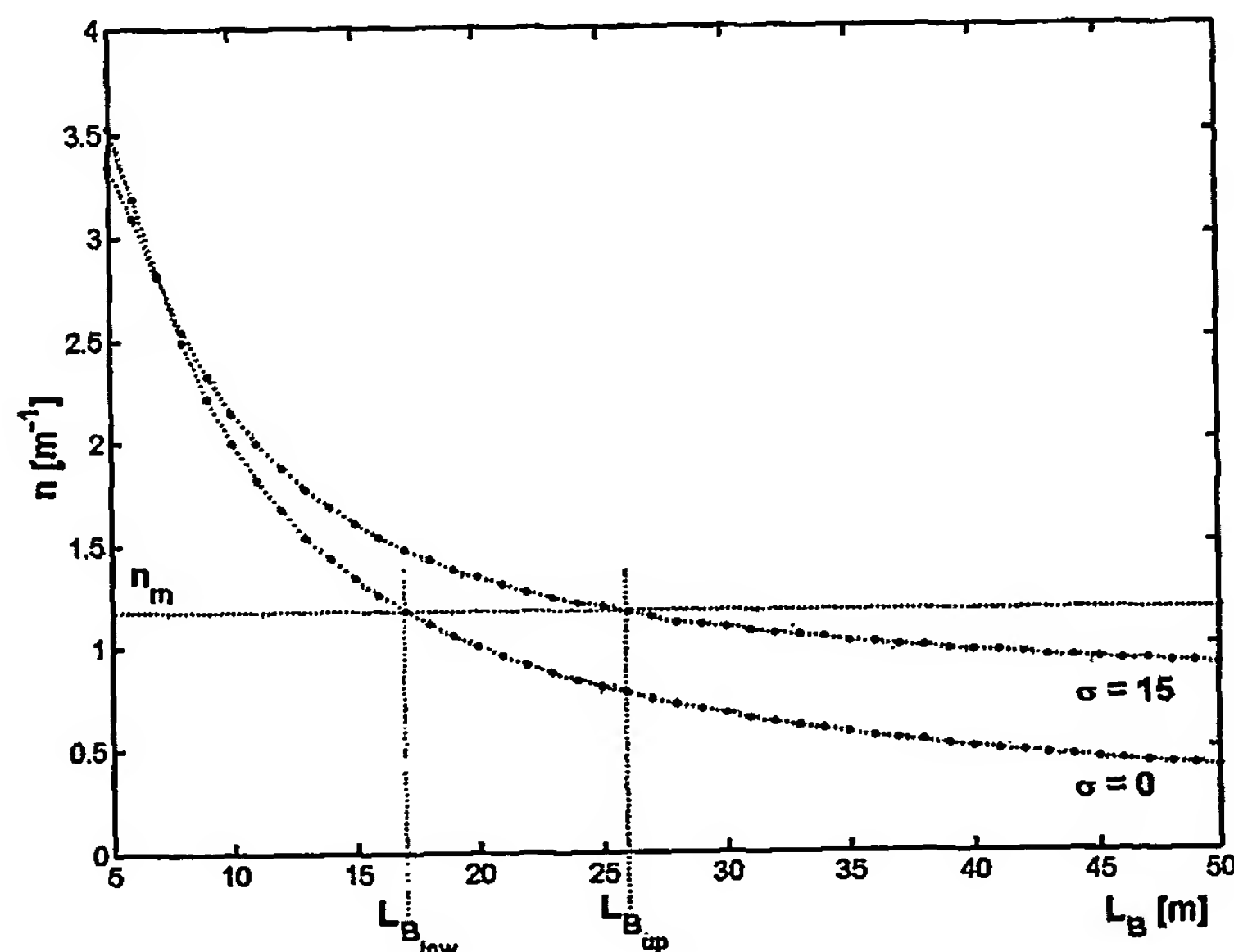
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(54) Title: METHOD FOR CHARACTERISING AN OPTICAL FIBRE LINK



(57) Abstract: The present invention is related to a method for characterising an optical link by its beat length, coupling length and polarisation mode dispersion, comprising the steps of : - sending a pulsed signal along said optical fibre link and measuring the backscattered signal (being a POTDR signal), after passing through a polariser, - deriving the length of said optical fibre, the average power difference between two successive minima of said backscattered signal and the number of maxima per unit length, - in an iterative way determining a beat length interval and an interval for the polarisation mode coupling parameter, until the length of said intervals is below a predetermined value, yielding a value for the beat length and the coupling length, - calculating the polarisation mode dispersion.